

THE WYOMING RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

The Wyoming Rural Development Council is a collaborative public/private partnership that brings together six partner groups: local/regional government, state government, federal government, tribal government, non-profit organizations and private sector individuals and organizations.

WRDC is governed by a Steering Committee representing the six partner groups. The Steering Committee as well as the Council membership have established the following goals for the WRDC:

- Assist rural communities in visioning and strategic planning
- Serve as a resource for assisting communities in finding and obtaining grants for rural projects
- Serve and be recognized as a neutral forum for identification and resolution of multi-jurisdictional issues
- Promote, through education, the understanding of the needs, values and contributions of rural communities

The Council seeks to assist rural Wyoming communities with their needs and development efforts by matching the technical and financial resources of federal, state, and local governments and the private sector with local development efforts.

If you would like more information about the Wyoming Rural Development Council and how you may benefit as a member, contact:

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Wyoming Rural Development Council
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Cheyenne, WY 82002
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May 8-10, 2001

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Progress of the Platte County Task Force

PROCESS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS REPORT

The Wyoming Rural Development Council (WRDC) has provided a resource team to assist the town of Wright, Wyoming in evaluating the community's assets and liabilities and in developing suggestions for improving the environment, social and economic future of Wright.

The town of Wright requested a community assessment from the Wyoming Rural Development Council. Susan Adams served as the community contact and took the lead in agenda development, logistics and publicity in town for the assessment. Resource team members were selected to visit, interview citizens, business and community leaders; and develop a plan of recommended action for the town. The team members were carefully selected based on their fields of expertise that Wright officials indicated would be needed to respond to the problem areas identified.

The Resource Team toured the town and interviewed approximately 140 people over a three-day period from May 8-10, 2001. The team interviewed representatives from the following segments of the Wright community: agriculture, education, youth, economic development, banking and finance, city/county government, school administration, industry, utilities, law enforcement, healthcare, emergency services, churches, social services, parents, civic services, retail, senior citizens, business, and Chamber of Commerce. Each participant was asked to respond to three questions designed to begin communication and discussion and to serve as a basis for developing the action plan. The three questions were:

- ❑ What do you think are the major problems and challenges in Wright?
- ❑ What do you think are the major strengths and assets in Wright?
- ❑ What projects would you like to see completed in two, five ten and twenty years in Wright?

Upon completion of the interviews, the team met to compare notes and share comments following the three days of intense study. The team then agreed that each team member would carefully analyze what was said, synthesize what they heard with their knowledge of programs and resources, prepare their notes and suggestions, and forward these items to be combined into WRDC's final report to Wright.

The oral report was presented to the people of Wright on May 10, 2001 and many of the citizens of Wright who participated in the interviews were in attendance.

Following the oral report, a formal written report was prepared and presented to the town of Wright. It was agreed that the town would print copies or summaries for each person interviewed.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The elements are all here for Wright to have a successful future. To become a growing, vibrant community takes only a few people willing to roll up their sleeves and go to work. Once this nucleus begins to exert effort, it will begin to show some successes. Then this nucleus needs to expand to include more and more of the community until the entire community is involved. But the work is not on big jobs; it is on small ones that can be achieved quickly. The big ones come later after Wright has seen the results of the smaller and sees that it can accomplish things.

Their area number of short term, accomplishable and recommendations that the review team has provided. The most important thing is to get the entire community involved in trying to find ways to accomplish its goals. A few celebrations at the successful conclusion of an activity which has involved a large number of citizens will lead to a feeling of accomplishment that will carry over into other activities. Look through the short-term suggestions, pick out one that you know what you can do, and get started!

Each of you individually must decide what it is that you want to do. What kind of project you want to tackle. There are enough tasks for everyone. Each small step, every accomplishment, no matter how limited, is movement in the right direction toward achieving Wright's goals. It can be done! There is no problem facing Wright that cannot be solved by the people living in the community. It is your choice, your decision, you can do it.

On behalf of the Wright Resource Team, I want to thank the community and our sponsors for the warm hospitality shown to us during our stay. The meals and accommodations were outstanding. We heard over and over in the listening sessions that Wright was filled with warm, caring individuals and we certainly can attest to that! Thank you very much.

We hope you will find great value in this report and remember any team member is available for you to call to clarify information or provide more information and assistance.

The Wyoming Rural Development Council is here to help you in any way that we can.

Sincerely,

Mary E. Randolph, Executive Director, Wyoming Rural Development Council

RESOURCE TEAM MEMBERS

Wright, Wyoming Resource Team May 8-10, 2001

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Billie Kirkham

USDA Rural Development
320 Lincoln
Riverton, WY 82501
307-856-7524
E-mail: billie.kirkham@wy.usda.gov

LOCAL CONTACTS/COORDINATORS

Wright Community Assessment, May 8, 9, 10, 2001

Agriculture: Josh Steele

Business/Retail/ Chamber of Commerce: Ava Nelson

Industry/Utilities: Karl Bertagnole

City/County Governments to include School Administrators: Town of Wright staff

Law Enforcement/Emergency Services/Emergency Management/Healthcare:
Marty Noonan/Jeff Rech and Denny Bohne

Churches/Social Services/Parent Groups (PAB): Gordon Roe

Civic Services/Senior Citizens: Bernice Groves/Ray McIntosh

Youth: Town of Wright Staff working in coordination with the school

Educators: Principal Kevin Sinclair and Principal Jock Ward

Economic Development/Banking & Finance: Harry Underwood/Janice Opsal

Wright Community Assessment May 8-10, 2001

Resource Team Agenda

Wednesday, May 8	Activity	Location
10:00 to 11:00 a.m.	Orientation and Organization Meeting (Resource Team only)	Town Hall
11:00 to 1:00 p.m.	Lunch with Community Team Leaders	Reno Jct. Cafe
1:30 to 4:15 p.m.	Tour of Wright area	Various sites
4:30 to 5:20 p.m.	Agriculture	Town Hall
5:35 to 7:15 p.m.	Dinner	Reno Jct. Cafe
7:30 to 8:20 p.m.	Educators	Town Hall
<u>Thursday, May 9</u>	Activity	Location
7:00 to 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast	Little Thunder Cafe
8:25 to 9:15 a.m.	Youth	WJSHS
9:30 to 10:20 a.m.	Economic Development/Banking and Finance	Town Hall
10:35 to 11:25 a.m.	City and County Government/School Administration	Town Hall
11:40 to 1:00 p.m.	Lunch (catered to town hall)	Mama's Parlor
1:15 to 2:05 p.m.	Industry/Utilities	Town Hall
2:20 to 3:10 p.m.	Break-Refreshments and Review of Previous Sessions	Town Hall
3:25 to 4:15 p.m.	Law Enforcement/Emergency Services/Healthcare	Town Hall
4:30 to 5:20 p.m.	Open Session (anyone welcome to attend)	Town Hall
5:35 to 7:00 p.m.	Dinner	Reno Jct. Cafe

Friday, May 10

	Activity	Location
7:00 to 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast	Little Thunder Cafe
8:10 to 9:05 a.m.	Churches/Social services/Parents	Town Hall
9:20 to 10:10 a.m.	Civic Services/Senior Citizens	Town Hall
10:35 to 11:25 a.m.	Business/Retail/Chamber of Commerce	Town Hall
11:30 to 1:00 a.m.	Lunch (catered to town hall)	Town Hall
1:00 to 4:30 p.m.	Team preparation for town meeting	Town Hall
5:00 to 6:30 p.m.	Dinner	Reno Jct. Cafe
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.	Town Meeting	Town Hall

**Wright Resource Team
May 8-10, 2001**

WHAT WE HEARD FROM WHAT WAS SAID

After listening to citizens of Wright, the Resource Team reviewed what was said and condensed the comments down to a few basic statements. These are in no particular order.

MAJOR THEMES IN WRIGHT

Public Facilities

- Library
- Running track
- Auditorium
- Indoor riding arena
- Motocross/BMX track
- Teen hangout

Economic Development

- Establish a "Main Street"
- Bring in new business:
 - Retail:
 - Fast food
 - Lumber
 - Clothing
 - Sporting goods
 - Pharmacy
 - Service:
 - Auto/bike mechanic
 - Tire shop
 - Day care
 - Tire shop
 - Movie Theater
- Industrial park
- Business/commercial Park

Transportation

- Make 59 four lanes
- Reduce speed limit on 59 approaches to Wright
- Bus transportation to Gillette

Land Use/Community Development

- Growth management
- Tree planting
- Private roadway maintenance within town limits
- Land locked

Political Representation

- Split between N. Campbell County (Gillette) and S. Campbell County (Wright)
- Impacts funding in Wright for schools and county public facilities

Education

- Community college outreach
- SBDC satellite office
- Leadership/entrepreneurial training
- Workforce development
 - Day care
 - Retention of employees
- Public disaster education
- Pre-school

Housing

- Senior housing
- Affordable housing for families
- All types of housing
 - Rentals
 - Owner occupied

RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED **BY RESOURCE TEAM MEMBERS**

The Resource Team has given many suggestions, some which have been repeated by more than one of the team members. We have listed the individual recommendations, along with contact information for the respective team members. You are encouraged to communicate directly with any team member whose recommendation you decide to implement. You may also contact Jennifer Goodman at the Wyoming Community Network for assistance in identifying resources to accomplish tasks. Her number is 307-766-2107 or e-mail at jgoodman@uwyo.edu.

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INTRODUCTION

On behalf of the resource team I would like to thank the town of Wright for the warm hospitality that was expressed during our stay. The logistics were well attended to by Susan Adams and the food was exceptional – thanks to all. The town has many outstanding amenities not normally found in a town the size of Wright that make it attractive as a place to live. I personally can say the bike paths are outstanding and the recreation center is well equipped -- I enjoyed both. Wright is a town with a future.

This report is organized around the major themes identified by the resource team.

PUBLIC FACILITES

Challenge: The need for new public facilities was mentioned numerous times during the sessions, most notably the desire for a library, running track, auditorium, indoor riding arena, motor cross track, and teen hangout. Due to the donation of land by the town the library should become a reality in the near future.

Solution/Contact: The running track and the motocross/BMX track both qualify for grant funding under the Land and Water Conservation Program. Funds should be available this fall

with a call for applications shortly after the first of the year 2002. Matching funds are required; therefore, the town must plan now to insure funds are available. For more information contact:

Todd Thibodeau
State Parks and Cultural Resources
Herschler Building, 1st Floor East
122 West 25th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002
307-777-6478

Program guidelines and application information can be viewed by going to <http://commerce.state.wy.us/sphs/index1.htm> click on Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Solution/Contact: Facilities such as the auditorium and indoor riding arena are typically funded by the one-percent capital facilities tax. The tax requires a countywide vote and currently Campbell County is imposing a .25% tax. Procedures for passage of the tax are outlined in State Statute 39-15-203 (iii).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Challenge: Recruitment of new businesses, particularly retail businesses, was mentioned time and time again at the listening sessions along with the desire to create a “Main Street.” In addition the need for an industrial park as well as a business/commercial park was mentioned.

Solution/Contact: The town has done an excellent job of attracting new companies that serve the existing coalmines within the region, so well in fact, that the town industrial park no longer has lots available for additional development. The town needs to identify additional land for development. Sources for industrial/commercial/business park development funding include the Wyoming Business Council, US Department of Commerce, and the USDA Rural Development

At the last legislative session an additional \$4.9 million was allocated for use within the State Mineral Royalty Capital Construction Account (MRG). Even though the funds are not earmarked for economic development there is a tacit understanding these funds should be used for public infrastructure related to job creation. Communities have recently been successful in receiving MRG funds for job creation projects. For information contact:

Brad Miskimins
Office of State Lands and Investments
Herschler Building, 3rd Floor West
122 West 25th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002
307-777-7331

The Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) managed by the Business Council is a source of funding for infrastructure when a business has committed to locate in town. Grants up to \$150,000 are available for job creation projects. For information contact:

Steve Achter
Wyoming Business Council
214 West 15th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002
307-777-2811

The US Economic Development Administration (EDA) has grant funds available also to help fund the development of industrial/commercial parks. For information and program guidelines contact:

John Rogers
EDA
PO Box 10074
Federal Building, Room 196
Helena, MT 59626
406-441-1175

Start a Business Challenge program for the Wright area. This is a business competition program that can be tailored to existing business and/or start-up businesses. The program utilizes in-kind donations to assist businesses. The donations can range from in-kind advertising to in-kind accounting services. The following chart demonstrates just how far these in-kind contributions can go.

Business Challenge

Business X Winner			
Local Accountant \$1,000 In-Kind Services	Local Attorney \$1,000 In-Kind Services	Local Newspaper \$1,000 In-Kind Advertising	Local Radio Station \$1,000 In-Kind Advertising
WBC \$1,000 Cash	Chamber/EDC \$1,000 Cash	Local Printer \$1,000 In-Kind Copying	Community College \$1,000 In-Kind Software Training
Local Bank \$1,000 In-Kind Services	SBDC Counseling Services	City/County \$1,000 Cash	DDA \$1,000 In-Kind Rent

This program is in the process of being established by the WBC regional managers in a number of communities throughout the state. For more information on starting a business challenge program in Wright contact:

Dave Spencer
Wyoming Business Council
Northeast Regional Manager
PO Box 962
Gillette, WY 82716
307-685-0283

TRANSPORTATION

Challenge: Many folks at the listening sessions expressed the need to make State Highway 59 a fourlane at least from Wright to Gillette. There was also concern about the speed limit on 59 and that it should be reduced at the approaches to Wright. Also expressed was the desire to have some type of bus transportation to Gillette. For additional information contact:

John Lane
Wyoming Department of Transportation
5300 Bishop Blvd.
Cheyenne, WY 82002
307-777-4180

Solution/Contact: In June of this year Sleeter Dover, the Director of the Wyoming Department of Transportation, gave a presentation to the Joint Transportation Subcommittee testifying that expanding Highway 59 to a fourlane was a high priority for the department. Funding will need to be identified.

Bus transportation between Wright and Gillette for shopping, doctors' visits, as well a days outing, particularly for senior citizens, was mention by many attending the sessions. Programs are available that can be used to purchase a bus to be used for transportation from Wright to Gillette. The program is the Transportation Enterprise Grant and Loan Program managed through the Office of State Lands and Investments. The next application deadline is September 15th with project approval coming in mid November. The contact is:

Brad Miskimins
Office of State Lands and Investments
Herschler Building, 3rd Floor West
122 West 25th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002
307-777-7331

LANDUSE/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Challenge: Management of growth in the face of significant planned development was of concern to many of the listening session attendees. If the power plant and coal bed methane developments materialize as proposed there will be significant impacts to the community. These types of developments, however, are not without precedent, as residents of Campbell County and the state well know.

Solution/Contacts: Lessons can be learned from the past and from other Wyoming communities that have experienced similar development. The town of Wheatland is such a community having been impacted by the construction of the Laramie River Station Power Plant. A community task force was created to examine and plan for the anticipated impacts. A narrative description of the task force concept is contained in the appendix. For additional information contact:

Steve Achter
Wyoming Business Council
214 West 15th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002
307-777-2811
E-mail: sachte@state.wy.us

or James G. (Jim) Thompson
Dept. of Ag. and Applied Economics
Room C-220 Ag Bldg
UW, Laramie, WY, 82071
307-766-4204-2386
Fax: 307-766-5544
E-mail: jtgoss@uwyo.edu

Both individuals were involved in impact mitigation planning.

Challenge: Although many trees have been planted in town and the joke was that some are now even taller than the houses, the need for more tree planning was expressed.

Solution/Contact: The State Forestry Division has a community tree-planting program. Information concerning this program may be obtained by contacting:

Mark Hughes
Forestry Division
1100 West 22nd Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002
307-777-7586

EDUCATION

Challenge: Entrepreneurial training for existing business owners as well as owners of start-up businesses is essential and can go a long ways toward strengthening the viability of new or expanding businesses. The need for such training was mentioned often during the sessions.

Solution/Contact: The Wyoming Small Business Development Center (SBDC) provides a wealth of assistance to business owners. The assistance includes business plan assistance, accounting, marketing, government procurement, and grant and loan application preparation to name a few. The SBDC office is located in Gillette, however, the director will travel to Wright to meet with clients.

The NxLevel entrepreneurial training is also offered through the SBDC's and will be taught on-site in Wright if there are enough students that sign-up for the class. It generally takes about 12 students to make a complete class. However, if there are fewer than 12 students the class will still be taught if a sponsor can be found to help financially support the class. Often time this is a bank or the local government, either city or county.

For additional information regarding the Small Business Development Center's contact:

Judith Semple
Region V SBDC
First Interstate Bank Building
222 South Gillette Avenue, Suite 402
Gillette, WY 82716
307-682-5232
Toll free 888-956-6060
Fax: 307686-7268
E-mail: sbdc@vcn.com

Challenge: Worker productivity and absenteeism can often times result from inadequate daycare or the lack of daycare, particularly during what is considered non-traditional time periods, such as in the evening and during second shift time periods. This issue was expressed as a concern many times at the listening sessions.

Solution/Contact: Campbell County recently received grant funding to conduct a childcare needs assessment. A countywide visioning session will take place September 14th and 15th. It is important that representatives from the Wright area attend that session so their views are heard. For additional information contact:

Melody Warren
307-686-7108

HOUSING

Challenge: The assessment team heard numerous times about the shortage of affordable housing as well as a lack of housing at all price levels.

Solution/Contacts: Other communities have faced similar situations and have used a variety of methods to solve the problem. The Wyoming Community Development Authority (WCDA), which is the housing finance agency for the state, manages the HOME Investment Partnership Program, or HOME for short, which helps pay for development costs if the subsidy is passed on to the homebuyer. The city of Powell prepared a housing demand study and in turned used it to persuade homebuilders that there was a market for affordable housing as well as other types of housing. This resulted in new housing construction. For additional information contact:

Cheryl Gillum
Housing Programs Director
WCDA
155 North Beech Street
Casper, WY 82602
307 265 0603.

Dave Reetz
President of the Powell Valley Economic Development Alliance
PO Box 907
Powell, WY 82435
307 754 2201.
Fax: 307-754-5217

Within USDA Rural Development there is a program called "Self Help Housing." This program allows homeowners to provide sweat equity for construction of homes under supervision by a construction supervisor sponsored by a housing authority or other non-profit organization.

Recently Housing Partners in Riverton applied for a Self Help Grant for technical assistance in the development of a Self Help Project. Four homes are being built and almost ready for occupancy, which were funded by Rural Development. For information contact:

Sue Hoesel
307-857-1988

USEFUL WEB SITES FOR GRANT INFORMATION

State grant information through the State Library:

www-wsl.state.wy.us/sis/grants/index.html

Federal Catalog of Domestic Assistance:

www.cfda.gov

Information about private foundation assistance:

www.fdncenter.org

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Challenge: Many citizens of Wright mentioned they would like to see more long-term industry and business established in their community. Citizens would especially like to see more service related businesses.

Resource: The Wyoming Business Council has excellent resources for business and industry recruiting. The Business Council is available to give business and industry recruiting presentations that are specialized for a community as well as provide support to a community that is seeking to diversify its economic base.

More information about the Wyoming Business Council can be obtained at their website at www.wyomingbusiness.org. For detailed information about business and industry recruiting, as well as requests for presentations, contact Den Costantino, Director of the Business and Industry Division of the Wyoming Business Council at dcosta@state.wy.us or (307) 777-2842.

Resource: Powder River Energy Corporation has a program aimed at community economic development. PRECorp's Progressive Community Grant Program is designed to assist communities in need of financial support in order to complete a community project or goal that relates to community and economic development. Maximum grant amount awarded to a community annually is \$2000. For more information on the Community Grant Program and an application form, contact Mike Blenkush, Manager of External Affairs, Powder River Energy Corporation, mikeb@precorp.org, or (307) 682-0733.

Resource: The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) has a variety of information regarding federal assistance and benefits available to the American public. The catalog is a compilation of financial and non-financial resources available through the many departments of the federal government. The catalog also has information on applying for federal assistance and developing and writing grant proposals.

The catalog can be searched online at www.cfda.gov, this is where the many different types of assistance can be reviewed, what type of assistance best suits community needs, information on application processes and information on writing actual grant proposals can be downloaded.

Another excellent resource for searching for available federal funds, applying for grants, and managing the grant process, is the U.S. House of Representatives Federal Funds Express website at www.house.gov/ffr/Grants_Other.htm. This site not only contains information on federal assistance programs, but also information and links to many private and charitable organizations that also offer grants.

POLITICAL REPRESENTATION

Challenge: Citizens of the Wright Community are concerned that they are under represented on County Boards and Councils. This can impact funding for Wright's schools and county public facilities.

Resource: Get community residents elected to the County Boards. One way to help achieve this is to form a local Political Action Committee (PAC). A PAC is a group of people with common goals who collect money to contribute to candidates running for public office. Generally, PACs are non-partisan alliances that do not favor one political party over another; instead, they support the political candidates who best represent the interests and views of its members.

A PAC, like other committees, must have a Chairperson, a Treasurer, and a board that will be responsible for prioritizing issues and developing a message that will be relayed to candidates in addition to financial support. A PAC is not limited to simply handing out checks, a PAC can also hold fund raising activities and actively campaign for candidates.

The PAC I have worked with, WREAPAC, collects money from annual memberships of individuals. Different levels of membership with WREAPAC are Regular \$25, Century \$100, and President's Club \$500, although individuals can contribute as much as they wish. When a person joins the PAC, they receive a membership card, a lapel pin and a newsletter; this gives them something tangible to let them know that they are an important part of the PAC.

While membership contributions are the financial backbone of the PAC, other fundraising activities like auctions where items are donated and then auctioned off can help raise additional funds for the PAC. State and federal law limit PAC fund raising activities, so regulations should be reviewed before proceeding with a fundraiser.

To form a PAC, the required forms must be submitted to the Wyoming Secretary of State. These forms, as well as state laws governing PACs can be found at the Secretary of State's Website at <http://soswy.state.wy.us/election/election.htm>. Depending on which candidates the PAC chooses to support, and depending on how much money the PAC raises, it may also be required to file with the

Federal Election Commission (FEC). FEC forms and federal election laws can be found on the FEC's website at www.fec.gov.

Questions regarding state PAC issues can be addressed to the Secretary of State's office at (307) 777-5333. I may also be able to aid you in questions and concerns with state PAC issues. Questions regarding federal PAC issues can be addressed to the FEC at (800) 424-9530 or you may also call Mike Whalen at the Action Committee for Rural Electrification at (703) 907-5826 (when calling Mr. Whalen, please tell him that I suggested you call).

Resource: An excellent resource for candidates thinking about running for public office is the Wyoming Rural Electric Association's Candidate Training School. This free school is open to everyone interested in running for office and will be held sometime in late October or early November of this year in Casper. The school will focus on effective campaigning, media relations, and campaign finance. I will send promotional materials to the Town of Wright for the Candidate Training School once the agenda has been set.

EDUCATION

Challenge: Many of the community's youths and other citizens were concerned about a lack of after school activities for teenagers, leading many teens to pursue non-productive activities.

Resource: The creation of a local youth council can create connections between the youth of the area and local officials. A youth council allows teens to feel that they have a say in the decision-making that affects them, and take pride in their community.

Local schools, the City Council and the Wyoming Medical Center, sponsor the Youth Council of Casper. The Youth Council regularly meets with the City Council and the school officials to discuss their concerns, ideas and current/proposed projects.

Besides taking part in meetings with the Town Council, the youth council also co-sponsors community activities, projects and awareness programs. The Youth Council of Casper played a major role in the creation of a public skate park, a successful suicide prevention program, and many community service activities.

More information about nationwide Youth Empowerment programs can be obtained at the Youth Empowerment website at www.youthempowerment.com. More information on the Casper Youth Council can be obtained by contacting Barb Rea, Coordinator, Casper Youth Council, brea@wmcnet.org, or (307) 577-2134.

Billie G. Kirkham

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Fax 307-856-2383
billie.kirkham@wy.usda.gov

FACILITIES

Concerns were mentioned repeatedly about the lack of funds available for construction of community or public facilities. Revenue could be generated by the passage of one-percent sales tax for a number of projects. These funds could be utilized to match funds in all most all state and federal grant programs available to small communities such as Wright.

Library, Running Track, Auditorium, Indoor Arena, Motocross/BMX Track and Teen Hangout, Recreation Center, Community - Senior Center,

The subject of community and public facilities such as a library, running track, auditorium, indoor arena, motocross/BMX track, senior/community center and a teen hangout was repeated throughout the assessment. The passage of a one-percent sales tax could fund of these projects. This tax should be pursued so that adequate funding is available to partner with other state and federal agencies to complete necessary community facilitates and programs.

These projects could be viewed in combination or singularly. The community needs to evaluate the uses for each and decide on a facility that would be big enough to serve the purpose but not so big that full utilization would be difficult.

The town of Wright may also want to spearhead the development of a non-profit or a for-profit organization to manage the needed programs and facilities.

Cody and Cheyenne have constructed similar facilities to those mentioned. These facilities are for-profit ventures. Contacts for these projects are:

1. Cheyenne – Mike Rosenthal. Phone 307-634-7723
2. Cody – Victor or Karen Riley. Phone 307-527-5211

There are several ways to fund these types of projects. In addition to fund raising efforts the community might consider the following:

1. Form a Joint Powers Board between the city of Wright and the county of Campbell.
2. Form a Non Profit Organization.
3. The city of Wright could apply for loans and grants.

Funding sources might include:

1. Rural Development – Community Facility Loan – this would be for a direct loan or grant. Contact point is Lola Lucero, Rural Development Manager, 1949 Sugarland Drive, Suite 118, Sheridan, WY 82801. Phone number is 307-672-6431. Her email address is lola.lucero@wy.usda.gov.
2. Local banks serving this community have funds available for projects and the loan can be guaranteed by Rural Development. Contact a local bank or contact Rural Development at the address above.
3. Any of the Bond Councils in the state can help set up bond elections and give advice as to the best bonding route to pursue. Three bonding companies are:
 - a. Borthwick Law Firm, 1312 Capitol Ave., Suite 506, P.O. Box 1124, Cheyenne, WY 82001, phone 307-635-2433.
 - b. Herschler, Freudenthal, Salzburg & Bonds, 314 E. 21st Street, P.O. Box 387, Cheyenne, WY 82003-0387, phone 307-634-2240.
 - c. Wiederspahn, Lummis & Liepas, PC, 2020 Carey Ave., Suite 700, Cheyenne, WY 82001, phone 307-638-6417.
4. State Loan and Investment Board, Brad Miskimins. Phone 307-777-6646.
5. Private foundations can be found through the Internet at the Foundation Center. Their web site is www.fdncenter.org.

HOUSING ISSUES – SENIOR LOW COST, ASSISTED LIVING

The assessment team heard several comments regarding the need for affordable housing as well as subsidized housing. We also heard that the need for assisted living facilities was present. It appears that the current facilities are adequate to handle seniors who are mobile and those that need nursing care. However the need was for a facility that would fill the gap between these two. There are several issues with this topic. First, to obtain senior housing or low income subsidized multi-family facilities a need must be demonstrated in the community. Generally, this is accomplished by a developer as part of the loan package. There are several funding sources for this type of project.

Funding sources might include:

1. USDA - Rural Development's Multi-Family Section 515 loan program. This program is administered by the use of a Notification of Fund Availability (NOFA) which is published in the Federal Register. Generally these funds are made available around the first of the year. Rural Development also has a guaranteed loan program under Section 538. This program is

also handled under the NOFA system. These loans are designed for low and very low-income tenants. Specific details as well as developers who have worked in this program can be obtained from Lola Lucero, Rural Development Manager, 1949 Sugarland Drive, Suite 118, Sheridan, WY 82801. Phone number is 307-672-6431. Her email address is lola.lucero@wy.usda.gov

2. Wyoming Community Development Authority (WCDA) is the state housing authority. They have control over Low Income Tax Credits and the HOME Investment Partnership Program, HOME for short. These funds can be used for development costs if a subsidy is passed to the tenants. WCDA also has a multi-family bond authority but this generally only works with projects of 150 or more units. The contact person at WCDA is Cheryl Gillum, Housing Programs Director. Her address is 155 North Beech, Casper, WY 82601. Her phone number is 307-265-0603
3. Funding sources for an assisted living facility might be obtained through USDA – Rural Development’s Community Facility program. This program has funds for direct loans and guaranteed loans. The same office listed in number 1 above handles these programs.
4. A local developer generally initiates single family housing projects. If no developer is available the community could initiate a development by purchasing and installing the needed infrastructure. Funding is available on a non-profit basis from Rural Development under its Section 523 program. This program loan funds at a very low interest rate for the development of building lots. These lots are then sold to prospective low-income homeowners in conjunction with the building of a home. These homes can be financed with Rural Development funds under the Section 502 program. The local office in Worland handles these programs. Contact person is the same as in 1 above. Another source of funding is through the WCDA’s HOME program, which has funds available to finance single family homes for low-income purchasers. This program involves an interested builder who will construct homes using HOME funds then sell them to authorized buyers. Rural Development can participate with WCDA in financing these homes. The contact for WCDA is Cheryl Gillum, Housing Programs Director, 155 North Beech, Casper, WY 82601. Her phone number is 307-265-0603.

BUSINESS PARK

Another concern expressed in the listening sessions was for the development of a business park. The issue of land availability was discussed. The term “land locked” was used several times. The issue of finding suitable land is paramount to the development of a business park that will be used by new or expanding businesses. Land in the flood plain should not be considered. The cost of flood insurance to new businesses would no doubt discourage development. With proper planning the community should be able to find suitable land to buy. The funding possibilities include:

1. USDA – Rural Development using their Community Facility Loan and Grant program. This program has long-term low interest loans for communities to obtain. Some grant funds may

also be available. The contact person is the same as above.

2. Another source might be the Industrial Road Program, Office of Local Government Coordination, P.O. Box 1708, Cheyenne, WY 82003-1708. Phone 307-777-4384.
3. Funds are available from the Economic Development Fund from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Seattle. EDF funds can be used to support community or economic development activities. The Federal Home Loan Bank offers a number of community lending programs to financial institutional customers (local banks). The local banks pass the money to nonprofits or governmental bodies. For more information contact the Seattle Home Loan Bank at 1501 Fourth Avenue, Suite 1900, Seattle, WA 98101-1693. Their phone number is 1-800-973-6223. Their web site is www.fhlbsea.com.
4. Funds may also be available through the Department of Commerce under their Economic Development Administration. Their address is 1244 Speer Boulevard, Room 670, Denver, CO 80204. Their web site is www.doc.gov. This web site lists all of the available programs.
5. Another source might be from the Federal Mineral Royalty Capital Construction Account, Brad Miskimins, Grant and Loan Manager, Herschler Bldg. 3 W, 122 W 25th Street, Cheyenne, WY 82002, phone 307-777-7309.

YOUTH

Out Migration

This problem was discussed as several sessions. Generally this related to the loss of youth that left the community to find good paying jobs after completion of college. This causes a “brain drain” on the local community. This is a problem with most communities in Wyoming. The only real solution is the creation of jobs in the community that are technical in nature. Most comments indicated a lack of interest in industrial jobs, so the logical solution would be high-tech jobs. These type companies have been moving into smaller communities in the State. SENTO opened a business center in Evanston and is contemplating expanding into Green River in the next year or so. This is a Utah company that has employed several hundred workers in Evanston and plans on 200 more in Green River. They deal in computer technologies and are a clean business to bring into a community. You can visit their web site at www.sento.com. In Casper, Boise Cascade Office Products order center opened about 2 years ago. That business has grown and now employs over a hundred employees. Their web site is www.bcpb.com. Businesses like these are becoming more common in rural America. They can conduct business from basically anywhere that rapid Internet access is available.

The following contacts are available for financial assistance to train and develop the workforce of the community:

1. Carl D. Perkins, Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998. Contact Heather Wagoner, Hathaway Bldg., 2nd Floor, 2300 Capital Avenue, Cheyenne, WY 82002. Phone

307-777-5329. This program is available to develop academic, vocational and technical skills in vocational students.

2. Workforce Development Training Fund. Contact Jan Wilson, P.O. Box 2760, Casper, WY 82602-2760. Phone 307-235-3294. The purpose of this fund is to enhance employment opportunities and help meet training needs of existing and new industries.
3. Adult Educational and Literacy. Contact the Department of Education, Karen Milmont, Hathaway bldg., 2nd Floor, 2300 Capital Avenue, Cheyenne, WY 82002. Phone 307-777-3545. The purpose is to provide education for undereducated adults (those who have not graduated from high school or received a GED).

DAY CARE FACILITY

The need for a day care center was discussed at several listening sessions. A not-for-profit group that is willing to spear head could develop this type of facility. One such group is in Worland called NOWCAP. They have the staff and desire to help communities get a project off the ground. One such project that has been recently completed is the Children's Discovery Center in Pinedale. The director of this facility is Carol Chidsey. Her address is P.O. Box 100, Pinedale, WY 82941. Her phone number is 307-367-6272. Wright officials could contact this organization for assistance in how to develop this facility.

A funding source for this type of project is through the Community Facility loan program of Rural Development. Contact Lola Lucero, Rural Development Manager, 1949 Sugarland Drive, Suite 118, Sheridan, WY 82801. Phone number is 307-672-6431. Her email address is lola.lucero@wy.usda.gov

Bill Maiers

803 Kirk Ave.

Casper, WY 82601

307-237-7082

E-mail: mtnbilly@coffey.com

Recommendations for the Major Themes

PUBLIC FACILITIES

- Library: Continue to work with County Officials to insure that Wright gets the Library they have envisioned.
- Running Track / Auditorium / Indoor Riding Arena: City Council appoint a citizen committee to identify the costs of building a Running Track, Auditorium, and an Indoor Riding Arena.
- Local Funding Sources: After identifying costs, contact and lobby County Commissioners, Campbell County School District, Local Businesses, Industry, and Citizens of Wright for the necessary funds.

Other Funding Sources: The Kresge Foundation. While many private foundations do not fund capital projects, 80% of Kresge's foundation dollars support capital projects. Be sure to check out the "Bricks and Mortar Program."

Contact: www.kresge.org

USDA Rural Development

Contact: Lonnie Allred (307) 856-5383

- For information about costs of building a new Running Track contact:

Rick Hollon, Athletic Surfacing International, Douglas, WY. 307-358-3922

- For information about costs of building a new Civic Auditorium contact:

Ken Barbe, President Amocoreuse Board, 307-234-1000 or

Piet van Dijk, 925 Eclid Ave., Suite 1900, Cleveland, Ohio, 44115,

PH. 216- 522- 1350, ext. 269

➤ For information about costs of building a new indoor Riding Arena contact:

Tom Jones, Natrona County Fair Manager, 307-234-1864

Motor cross/BMX track and Teen Hangout

- The only recommendation that I can think of at this time would be to organize a teen committee or forum, which could include an adult advisor, and decide what kind of Motocross/BMX track and Teen Hangout they envision.
- Considerations: location, costs, scheduling times of use, supervision, "funding", revenues, refreshment provisioning, liability, etc.
- Contacts for information: Mike Sedar Park BMX Track, Gerhard Sanfort, (307) 265- 6605
Day, (307) 472-5938 Night.
Casper Family YMCA, Mark Krauss, Director,(307) 234-9187
Boys and Girls Club of Central Wyoming, Ashley Brite, Director, (307) 235-5694
Casper Recreation Center, Mike Bemis, Director, (307) 235-8403
Morning Optimists Put-Put Golf, Wallace Blatt, Board Member, (307) 234-8709

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Establish a Main Street
- Contact: Main Street Program
1785 Massachusetts Ave, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036
Phone-(202) 588-6219
Website: www.nationaltrust.org or www.mainst.org
(Be sure to look into their Small Town Main Street Program)
- Bring in new businesses
- Retail: Fast food
Lumber
Clothing
Sporting goods
- Services: Auto/bike mechanic
Tire shop
Day care
Movie Theater

- **Recommendation:** Organize a Wright Area Economic Development Alliance. (WAEDA). Members should include: Civic Leaders (Town and County), Business/Industry Leaders, Education Leaders, Agriculture Leaders, and the Public at Large. Prioritize the Retail and Service wants and needs from the lists above, that was identified during the assessment period.

Identify strategies for recruitment, and funding if needed.

Identify and advertise the zoned land that is available in and around the town of Wright. Let the people of Wyoming and the United States “know” that Wright, Wyoming is open for business and development.

- **Resource Information:** Steve Achter, Investment Ready Communities Director for the Wyoming Business Council (307) 777-2811.
- **Industrial/Business/Commercial Park:** “Inventory what you have already zoned”. If you decide that you need more, you must begin to plan for future development of the land adjacent to your present city limit boundaries.
- **Information Resource:** Casper, Wy. City Manager’s office c/o David Hough (307) 235-8241. “Regarding Casper’s North Platte Park, 1100 acres, which is zoned Industrial/commercial/and Recreation.

TRANSPORTATION

- **Make Route 59 Four lanes:**
- **Contacts:** Bb Milburn, State Planning Engineer (307) 777-4411
Dick Erb, State Senator, S.D. 24, (307) 686-1309
Steven Youngbauer, State Senator S.D.23,(307) 687-3240W, (307) 682-1923H
Nick Deegan, State Rep., H.D.53 (307) 686-1530, (307) 682-4386
George McMurtrey, State Rep.,H.D.52 (307) 682-7275W, (307) 686-1173H

Recommendation: Work together with State Highway Officials and State legislators from Campbell and Converse Counties to identify the “need and possible funding sources”.

- **Other Contacts for Funding** U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Cubin
100 E B St., Casper, WY. 82601
(307) 261-6595

Senator Craig Thomas
100 E.B St., Casper, WY. 82601
(307) 261-6413
Senator Michael Enzi
100 E.B St., Casper, WY. 82601
(307) 261-6572

- Reduce Speed Limit on Route 59 Approaches to Wright
 - Contacts: Kelly Hand, Mayor of Wright and Wyoming State Highway Patrolman. (307) 464-6026
Bob Milburn, State Planning Engineer.
(307) 777- 4411
 - Recommendation: Conduct a traffic study, and based on the results, reduce speed limit appropriately.
 - Funding Sources:
Wyoming Department of Transportation

- Bus Transportation to Gillette
 - Contacts: Powder River Bus Lines, 107 W2nd St. Shoshoni, WY. (307) 876-2561
Wind River Transportation 2554 Airport Dr. Riverton, WY. (307) 856-7118
 - Recommendation: Include “Bus Transportation” to your list of Services”, that was identified under Economic Development, on page 3 of this report

- Extension to Route 59 of Industrial Park Road Which is Adjacent to the Fishing Pond:
 - Contact: Rich Douglas, Wyoming State Planning Dept. (307) 777-4384 for information about the Industrial Roads Program (I.R.P.)

LAND USE/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Growth Management:
 - Recommendation: Follow present zoning & sub-division regulations, and plan for future

growth as I have indicated on page four of this report under the heading of “Industrial/Business/Commercial Park”, and “Information Resource”

- Contact: Jennifer Goodman, Director, Wyoming Community Network (307) 766-2107 for Information about available Resources
Steve Achter, Director, Investment Ready Communities for information about the American Planning Assoc. (A.P.A.)
- Additional Information: You also can search the Wyoming Community Network’ web site: www.WyomingCommunityNetwork.com and search under: “Resource Database”---- (“Community Economic Analysis”)
- Tree Planting:
- Recommendation: Contact: Mark Hughes, Office of State Lands and Investments, Forestry Division (307) 777-7586 Ask Mark about the Community Tree Planting and Education Grants Program.
- Private Roadway Maintenance Within Town Limits:
- Recommendation: Create a beautification committee that consists of interested citizens of Wright. Meet with owners of private property and encourage them to keep their properties neat and clean. Explain the benefits of a clean community and how it relates to community and economical development. **Organize an annual Wright clean up day.**
-
- Land Locked: Refer to the Economic Development Portion of this report found on page four under the heading; “Industrial/Business/Commercial Park”

POLITICAL REPRESENTATION

- Split Between N. Campbell County (Gillette) and S. Campbell County (Wright)
- Recommendation: Obtain a list of all County Boards and Commissions. Recommend to the Campbell County Commissioners that a Wright Area citizen or elected Official be appointed to every Board and Commission that affects the Wright Community. The citizens and elected officials “must” make a concentrated effort to become as “Politically active as needed in order to get their piece of the pie”. Also, encourage your citizens to run for Political offices in your County. ie: County commission, School board, etc.

EDUCATION

- **Community College Outreach:**

- **Contacts:** Tim Downing, Records and Registration, Sheridan College, Gillette Campus, (307) 686-7141 for information about on-line courses. Their web-site is: www.gc.cc.wy.us look under “Schedule” (On-line inter-net courses’)

Pam Steinle or Jerry Nelson, Casper College (307) 268-2110 their web-sites are: www.cc.whec.n search under: “Academics”- (Distance Ed. Page) University of Wyoming web-sites: www.online.uwyo.edu (on line classes) and www.outreach.uwyo.edu

- **WSBDC Satellite Office:**

- **Contact and Recommendation:** Judith Semple, Regional Director, WSBDC, for your region. 222 S. Gillette Ave. Suite 313 Gillette, Wy. 82716 (307) 682-5232, (sbcd@vcn.com) Contact Judy for information about WSBDC opportunities available for the town of Wright. “She will travel”.

- **Leadership/Entrepreneurial Training:**

- **Contacts and Recommendation:** Judith Semple, (address above) or Bill Schilling, Director of the Wyoming Business Alliance (307) 577-8000 for Information about “Nx LEVEL” training, which is a course for people are thinking about starting a business, or expanding their existing business. “ I strongly recommend this course it is excellent information.”

- **Workforce Development Retention of Employees:**

- **Contact:** Mary Randolph (307)-777- 6430 mrand@state.wy.us, for information about “Internet Masters” training. Also refer to the information provided in this report about the University of Wyoming and Community College web-sites which may provide further opportunities in workforce development.

- **Pre-School/Daycare:**

- **Recommendation:** Include pre-school/daycare as part of your “Bring in New list of “Services” found on page three of this report. I would also recommend that you contact the churches located in your community and offer them the opportunity to open a pre-school/ daycare facility.

- Contact: St.. Mark's Day School, 701 S. Wolcott St. Casper, Wy. 82601, (307) 234-0831

HOUSING

- Recommendation: Contact the Wyoming Community Development Authority for a detailed housing assessment of what you already have in Wright. This will help decide what you need in senior housing, Affordable housing for families, and for additional rental/owner occupied housing.
- Contacts: Wyoming Community Development Authority(WCDA) George Axlund or Cheryl Gillum, P.O. Box 634 Casper, Wy. 82602, (307) 265-0603

Fannie May Foundation www.fanniemaefoundation.org

U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, Senior Community Builder Wyoming State Office, 100 E. B St. Rm. 4229, Casper, Wy. 82601-1918

CONCLUSION

I found the town of Wright to be a very clean, vibrant, and friendly place, that has already done a good job of community development. However, I feel very strongly that you must now, fine tune what you have now, and prepare for your anticipated new growth. I sincerely hope this assessment process works for you. I look forward to working with you in the future. "Thanks again for your wonderful hospitality".

Mary Randolph

Wyoming Rural Development Council

2219 Carey Ave.

Cheyenne, WY 82002

307-777-6430

mrand@state.wy.us

INTRODUCTION

I did not attend the Wright Community Assessment as a Team Member, however, I have read the community responses at the listening sessions, reviewed the list of major themes and I have had discussions with Team Leader, Steve Achter regarding the assessment. The Team has provided you with some excellent recommendations based on what they heard in your community. I would like to add a few more recommendations and resources that may be of help to you and your community.

Recommendation: I would first re-iterate Steve Achter's comments in his introduction. The next phase of this assessment will be to host another town meeting to involve all citizens in prioritizing the recommendations of this report. It will be impossible for you to take on each and every recommendation, but if you begin with a few and show success, the momentum will begin to continue Wright as a growing and vital community. Steve Achter and Jennifer Goodman of the Wyoming Community Network will facilitate the follow-up town meeting. I encourage you to take advantage of this follow-up town meeting.

Recommendation: In order for any community to be successful in moving forward, have a strategic plan is imperative for success. *A strategic plan lays out the blueprint for change within a community. It takes a community from a pie-in-the-sky vision to specific actions.* The Wyoming Association of Municipalities presents a strategic planning session at their state meetings and conventions. If a community official is attending the meeting, I would suggest they sign up for the strategic planning session. Or, you may contact the Wyoming Rural Development Council and we would be happy to present this session to your community.

Contact: Wyoming Association of Municipalities
Ginger Newman
307-632-0398

Mary Randolph
Wyoming Rural Development Council
307-777-6430

EDUCATION

Recommendation (Leadership Training): There are many successful leadership-training programs in the state that can assist Wright in developing leadership in the community. One good resource is again the Wyoming Association of Municipalities (WAM). WAM supports Leadership Training Services – an affordable leadership program for communities. This organization also offers a leadership accreditation program, called Continued Education Program. You can reach levels of leadership and receives credit for courses you attend.

Contact for LTS: Wyoming Association of Municipalities
Ginger Newman
307-632-0398

Several communities in Wyoming host leadership training program though their Chamber of Commerce. Successful programs have been done in Sheridan and Cody. Two contacts that would help you get a program started are:

Contact for Community Leadership Program: Carole Perkins
Sheridan County Chamber of
Commerce
307-672-2485

or

Rhonda Shipp
Cooperative Extension
Powell, WY
307-754-2223

Cooperative Extension in Cheyenne was also successful in obtaining a Kellogg grant to provide leadership training to the small communities of Pine Bluffs, Carpenter and Albin. The facilitator of that grant and program is Phil Rosenlund, Cheyenne, WY.

Contact: Phil Rosenlund
Cooperative Extension
307-683-4383

Recommendation (Public Disaster Education): Campbell County has recently begun a Project Impact Program through Emergency Management Services. Project Impact is a program designed by Federal Emergency Management to create more disaster-resistant communities through local community stakeholder partnerships. Campbell County has received a grant to implement this program.

Contact: David King
Campbell County EMA Coordinator
307-686-2222
For information on Project Impact in Wyoming:
http://www.fema.gov/impact/cities/im_wy04.htm

HOUSING

Recommendation (Sr. Housing): Several team members have discussed senior housing, but I will give you one more contact. Worland, Wyoming has received a grant to complete a Senior Housing Study and I would recommend you contact them to see what steps were taken to receive this grant and what company completed the study.

Contact: Rod Profitt
Washakie County Planner
307-347-2741

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Recommendation (new business start-up): Many comments were made regarding new business needed in the community. New business loans are available for persons interested in starting a new business. The following resources are available:

1. Rural Business Enterprise Grant may be used to facilitate the development of small and emerging private business enterprises and can be used for technical assistance such as market research, product and/or service improvement, or feasibility studies.

Contact: USDA Rural Development
Jerry Tamlin
307-261-6320

USDA Rural Development can be a wealth of granting resources for a community. I would encourage you to contact their State Office for more information about the many programs they have available to communities.

Contact: John Cochran
State Director
307-261-6300

WHAT WAS SAID AT THE INTERVIEWS

The Resource Team spent two days interviewing the local residents to hear what they had to say. Those being interviewed were directed to answer three questions:

- ✓ What are the major problems/challenges in the community?
- ✓ What are the major strengths/assets of the community?
- ✓ What projects would you like to see implemented in your community in the next two, five, ten, or twenty years?

We have listed below, without comment, what we heard from those who volunteered to be interviewed. The “ indicates that the comment was repeated.

What are the major problems and challenges in your community?

Not a true community

Boom/bust economy (impact)

Loss of quality of life due to impact

Doesn't have strong representation

“

No job opportunities for women

Transient

Campbell County sees the school district as Gillette

Looking at separate school district – needs are not being met

Shift work – lack of people watching children

Lack of things for kids to do

Lack of low cost housing

Influx of people in school system

“

Day care needed

“

Crime rate increase

Police force if crime rate increases

Fire response is lacking (takes two phone calls)

More retail

Fast food

“

Littering

Small

Need more parking space

“

More kids activities

“

“

“

“

Potholes

Better streets & sidewalks

“

More recreation for kids

“

“

“

“

Need a track

“

“

Drinking and drugs

Gas prices

Develop vacant land

“

Housing – multi-family and single

“

Construction boom that is ahead

Lack of participation

Ditto all above

Capture growth and turn it into stable community

Job opportunities for youth

Retail outlets, fast food, banking, etc

Diversified economy

“

Low income housing and ditto above

Job opportunities

“

Better law enforcement in the evenings

Lack of participation – leadership development

Retail business limited

“

No ability to service public funds

General apathy

“

“

Expansion of businesses
Day care facility
Additional facilities for school – auditorium, track,
Children’s developmental services – early intervention & challenge of services in
Wright
Need to advertise services
General apathy
Wright needs county attention/balance cooperation
“

Affordable and senior housing
Day care
Auditorium
Lack of communication
Apathy
“

Auditorium
Day care
Things for teenagers to do that’s affordable
Need four lane highway
Substance abuse – alcohol and drugs
Cost of rural phone service
“

“
Rural sprawl
“

Educators don’t live in Wright
Boom/bust
PO hours
One landfill in entire county
No one wants to move here due to affordable housing
Day care center
More notice for utilities
Apathy
Day and night care
Teen center
High school track
Police station
4 lane highway 59
Electric prices
Teachers who live in community
Stager PO hours
Stager lunch hours

Stager library hours

Need mechanic

Bike repair

Senior center

Ice skating rink

Natural disaster shelter

Low cost housing

Private land is challenge for development

Only have two officers assigned to Wright area

Anticipated growth with power plans

“

No real defined business district

Health challenges

Need for 24 hour health care and law enforcement

Public education re disaster potential/winter danger

Bilingual problems for providing info

County emergency plan

Need increased services

Volunteer system

Shortage of career personnel

Enhancement of rescue capabilities

Expansion of fire codes

Red Cross shelters

Fund shortage for public services

Non-competitive wages

Distances to backup services

Lack of things for youth to do

“

No place to put new business

“

Small group that volunteers

“

Working with county – cooperation

“

Kids hanging out on area across from school

Perception is that kids who are active are in sports

Would like to have kids return after school

Wright should receive entitlements

“

Adequate housing

Kids should have input

Lack of entertainment for kids

Get people educated on truth

Sense of injustice – change

Identify economic potential

Throw money at problems

Nothing to do

Previous administration concerned about kids activities because costs too much

Delivery of employment services to the town of Wright

Influx of people – how to meet challenge

“

“

Need bike and car repair services

“

No summer jobs for teens

Shift workers leave town which is hard economically, sense of community

Affordable housing

“

“

Diversity in pay between mine and service workers

Apathy – not enough involvement

Kids can't return after graduation to work

One mall owner trying to get rich is keeping business from coming in

Private streets are not being maintained

Gillette takes priority with tax money

“

Affordable housing

“

“

“

Challenge being part of the community

Activities for senior and senior housing

“

Proximity to Gillette and lack of clout

Busing to Gillette to shop for seniors

More shopping – pharmacies and medical care

Don't keep coordinators for long period

One mall limits business

Advertising

“

Representation in the community

Would like a main street

Need additional doctor

Need more EMT help

Pre-school needed

Not enough well paying job for women and teenagers

Economical disparity between mine and service workers

Lack of communication

“

“

Isolation

“

Access to travel/lack of access to air service

Limited to mall and no main street

“

“

“

“

“

“

Prescription service

Lack of faith in town – uncertainty

Housing

“

“

“

“

Transportation

Shift worker schedules allow out of town shopping

Need 4 lane highway 59

“

Lack of bus/courier service

Stigma of not enough base for business and arrogance of outside business

Traffic pattern not conducive for through traffic

Inability to get access on highway 59 from Richfield Court

Bottom of totem pole for everything in Campbell County

“

Do not use businesses here to capacity

Slow delivery services

What are the major strengths/assets of the community?

Church, public employees, infrastructure is excellent
Family/children oriented

“

Good schools
Lots of economic opportunity
Folks living in surrounding community are supportive

Banks, post office
Town universally involved

“

Small population
Major strength is people
Attractive town
People helping other people

“

Strong EMS department
Corral rodeo activities
Young people

“

Progressive community
Strong community leaders

“

Nice parks and lake

“

Growing community

“

Diversified businesses

“

Responsive leaders
Golf course
Lots of activities for kids
Wright Ranch
More churches than bars
Medical facility
Fire department and law enforcement
Community support for fire department
Small
Coal mines

Low crime rate

Clean

“

“

“

Low crime rate

Politeness

“

Friendly

Sports programs

Know everyone

Fishing pond

“

Clean Air

Pretty and nicely landscaped

No gangs or group status

Everyone knows each other

“

Small town

“

“

Opportunity for sports

Ranching community is supportive

Small classes and know teachers

One on one help

Know neighbors and look out for each other

Proximity for industrial growth

Pride of ownership

Economic health

Excellent school with exceptional student/pupil ratio

Low crime rate

Offer personal service and family service

Nice appearance

Family atmosphere

Ditto schools and low crime rate

High profile during boom

Fiber optic communication

Nice walking and bike paths

Room for development

“

Professionals in public service

First class recreational facilities

Very nice golf course
Contract services with county
Rec center
“

Baseball – sports organization
Clinic and EMT’s
“

Golf course
Friendly people
Good services – gas station, hardware, clinic, grocery store
County wide services
Small town atmosphere
Parks, attractiveness
Revenue for services
Streets, attractive
Walkable
Opportunity for community involvement
Sales tax return
Everyone seems to pull together
“

Young community
“

Crossroads of energy
Low cost energy
Have access to public figures
Diverse population
Extremely good rec. facilities
Good school system
Golf course
Hard working town council
Good place for young people
Telecommunications into Wright
Energy is affordable
Location
Smallness
Personalness
Good relations with city government for utilities
Open communications with town
Clinic
EMT & fire station
Rec. center
Golf

Grocery store

Gas station/mall

Bank

Town could grow to 2800 people without straining water

Water and wastewater tap rates are cheap

Jobs are available

Business opportunities

Cheap utility rates in WY

Volunteers are dedicated

Community effort

Emergency services work together

Volunteers retention rate far exceeds national average

People are younger, skilled

Good government and infrastructure

Combination system both volunteers and career in fire system

Cooperation between emergency services

“

Great equipment

“

New clinic

“

Town contracts with sheriff's department

“

“

Excellent town personnel

New maintenance equipment

Fish pond

Golf

Parks

Clean

Trees taller than houses

Strong economic base

Emergency services, everyone helps

Have been able to provide higher quality training and level of emergency services personnel than most similar sized communities are able to provide

Pull together

Friendly

Rec. center

Golf course

Active concerned people

People

Money and resources

Higher education access
Small town essence
Outstanding religious community
More churches than bars
New mayor interested in improving community
“

Trees
Earth day
Low crime rate
Elected officials
Resources – educational
Wildlife
Low crime rate
Children
Location
Diversity of things to do
Low crime
Modern infrastructure
Chamber of Commerce and info area
Bike paths
Golf course
New town - no biases
Small town atmosphere
Schools great strength
People who started town are one big family
Good strong town government
Active chamber
“

Churches get involved in community
“

Great economic opportunities
Safe place to live
EMT's
Become one big family
“

“

“

Low crime rate
Have neighborhood watch
Layout of town
Beauty
Family town

Trees

Smallness is strength as well as problem

People aren't afraid to help

Nice rec. center

Bike trails

Churches

Lake

Nice clinic

Great staff at library

“

Transportation to churches

Golf course

Museum

“

EMT service

Excellent library

City council is good

People are asset

Peaceful town with caring citizens

“

“

Pretty

New public facilities

“

“

Lot of things for kids and people to do

Good schools

“

Good rec. program

No traffic problems

Strong town government

“

General appearance

Best of both worlds

Lots of opportunities

“

Job opportunities for youth

Safe

Volunteers

Diverse population

Lot of room to grown in Wright. Just need to encourage business growth by not only zoning, but also by prepping the land for easy construction of roads, utilities, lighting and sidewalks.

Clinic; EMT/Fire Station; early warning/disaster whistles
Recreation Center; summer sports program; 9 hole golf course
Grocery store; bowling alley; hardware store; computer store; Salon: hair, nails, tanning; gas station
Three restaurants; massage therapist; community closet; bank; catering service; fishing pond; bike & walking paths; orthodontist once a month; newsletter
Love the small town atmosphere. The people are close and community oriented.
Businesses are friendly and helpful. People go the extra mile to help each other. Friendly community
Friendly, welcoming
Fitness oriented
great parks/facilities for families
Small schools
Safe neighborhoods Personable
Golf course
Close to mines
Having the grocery store in town and open 7 days a week
County provides good services: recreation center, library
Town provides parks, golf course, walking paths
Medical clinic
Unified school district provides a good education, as well as enhanced services
good gas station, convenience store
Retail businesses available, especially the hardware store and automotive supplies
Participation of and inclusion of the ranching community in local activities
Community support
Small town atmosphere
Cooperative spirit of town officials and other agencies
Excellent schools with low teacher-pupil ratio, low crime rate, modern streets and infrastructure, first class recreation facilities, fiber optic telecommunication lines
High level of employment
The town receives high revenues from mineral royalties and taxes
Cleanness
Low crime rate
Politeness
Low crime rate
Good, clean, people are nice
Low crime rate
We have a good sports program.
Polite, clean and low crime also
Small town
We are growing and we don't have to try out for a team?
Small town so everyone knows each other.

Small - clean

Small

You know everyone

Clean air

You know everyone

Clean air

Small classes in school

Have more opportunities in sports

People are friendly

We live near coal mines and that it's a small town

Good rapport in businesses

Friendly people

Friendly people

Excellent library and rec. center

Safe and caring "neighborhood" atmosphere throughout the whole town

Wright is a small town community

Beautiful schools

Many walkways and bike paths

Doctor available

More churches than bars

Small town atmosphere

It appears the mayor deeply cares for the community. We appreciate his communicating with the people.

When Atlantic Richfield started Wright, it was a beautiful community. There were many guidelines to keep it looking neat. We need to get back to the guidelines and the neat looking community.

The fishing lake is wonderful

Its people

Pride of ownership, good schools, support from whole community during adversity, active chamber of commerce, motel

There are still some people who care

The town is blessed with excellent public facilities

Small, beautiful growth potential for a family

Schools

Rec. center

Great people

The people

Recreation center, library, parks, bike paths

The diversity in religion as evidenced by the numerous churches

Fishing lake

Many parks

Bike trail

Area by the water tower where young kids ride motorcycles
Golf course
Wright Town Hall and multi-purpose building
Riding/roping arena
Corrals where our FFA students raise their show/sale animals
Recreation center
Affordable housing
Location: convenience for mining & industrial companies
Rural atmosphere for raising families
Beautifully landscaped
Friendly residents

What projects would you like to see implemented in your community in the next two, five, ten, or twenty years?

Commercial development

“

Main street

Industrial park availability

“

Economic development

Senior citizen housing

“

Affordable housing (decent)

Controlled growth

“

Recruit electricians, carpenters, contractors

Make use of wastewater

Enforce multiple use on federal lands

Review endangered species act every five years as intended

Library

“

Need for upkeep in Cottonwood Trailer Park

May need jail

Auditorium

“

Large indoor facility for roping and riding

“

Emergency shelter underground

Low income senior housing

“

Defined area for downtown

Increase in business – fast food, etc

Dirt bike track

Additional school building

Maintain small class size during growth

“

Principal's plans made public for projected growth

Dispatch out of Wright needed

New track

Clothing stores

More places to go

Better books in school

More trees

“

More recreation

Clothing stores

More fast food restaurants

Sporting goods store

New fishing pond

Teen hangout (YMCA)

Power plant completed

New track

Clothing stores

Fast food

Growth (2500 – 3000)

Movie theater

Track

More things to do – hangouts, movie theater, arcade, free pool tables

Bigger school to accommodate growth

New track

Trees, expansion of parking lot

More things to do and new track

Lumber store

Indoor arena for horses

Auditorium

Motor cycle track

Better streets, sidewalks

Roller skate

Auditorium

Library

Auditorium

Wrestling room enlarged

Motorcross/BMX track

“

Auditorium

Dance club except for adults

More no smoking areas

More mechanics

Hospital

Housing of all types

Downtown business district

Plan for housing task force

Newspaper

Ditto

Recruit developer for housing

Ditto

Pharmacy

Library

Leadership development

“

Additional doctor

Add industrial area

24 hour convenience store

Light industrial parks

“

“

Library

Ice skating rink

Indoor arena

Controlled growth with zoning restrictions

Widen sidewalk around loop

Facilities for retail development

New library

“

“

“

“

“

Establish community endowment

Senior housing

Rental property

Library and child care

Track

“

Auditorium

More businesses

“

PO should receive upgraded status

Highway 59 four lane from Douglas to Gillette

Banking institution

“

“

School facilities – auditorium, track, wrestling room

Retain growth after boom
Maintain infrastructure after boom
Jobs for youth
More businesses
Continue beautification
Land locked community – can't grow
Business park/light industrial
Be careful with zoning
Job service learning center
New library
Use pods for day care, senior center, low cost housing
4 lane 59 highway
“

Wind/solar power
Library
Retain growth
Community support for economic development
Charter school/separate school district
Put together own police department
“

Code enforcement inspector
“

Ongoing public disaster education
Active town emergency management coordinator
Emergency operation plan
Storm sheltering
One additional multifunctional person
Improvement of rescue services
Replace three pieces of equipment
All night Laundromat
Plan for emergency services
Community that has grown well through boom
Fire and ambulance services need full time person
Need expanded building for emergency services
Senior center and senior housing
Systems equipped for more than 3000 people
Might need police for expanded population
Public safety department
Wright needs to elect officials to county boards
Volunteers are consolidated into one entity so competition is eliminated
Emergency management coordinator and designated shelters around town
Tree planting day

“

New library

New business facilities to highway 59

“

Local office for job service

Ice skating rink

“

Place to expand at reasonable cost

Entertainment for youth and young adults

Retail stores

Arcade and hangout place

Additional housing

Successful workforce development

Public transit

Day care

School to work

Adult basic ed. skills

Successful youth development

Library

Economic diversification

More investment in town

Library

Expand retail area

Need downtown area

Community needs to get behind newspaper

“

Encourage small business

Need running track

Build quaint hometown shops

Provide education in leadership and development

More trees

Bilingual literary services

Expand golf course

Cheap public transportation to Gillette

Senior center

Four lane highway 59

Library

“

More affordable housing

“

Disaster relief team in place

“

Senior citizen housing

“

“

More activities for kids

“

Orderly growth without ruining atmosphere

More economic diversity

More options for retail business other than mall

Need more options for special needs children locally

Outreach classes

Auditorium centrally located

Maintain private streets

Library should be stick built – not modular – that we can be proud of

Day care

More time for kids to bowl

Legion baseball program resurrected

Pre-school

Housing

Transportation

Prescription service

Pre-school for kids

“

Trailer courts need to be cleaned up

Pot holes need to be repaired

New library

Resurface around mall

Disaster relief and shelters

Day care

“

EMT training cooperation

“

Paid EMT full time help

Newspaper

Projects for kids/seniors

Need for latch key programs

Garage at end of clinic

Library for medical education

Higher education

Get more retail business

”

Housing project - senior and low income

“

“

“

“

Library

Auditorium

“

“

“

“

“

Businesses going up strip

Main street

“

Slow down on highway 59 at approach to Wright

Office space

Traffic light at Reno Junction

4 lanes Highway 59

Campground/reservoir

New rental space

SBDC satellite office

Senior citizen housing

Handyman

Economic diversity

Job service

Adult education

Technical education

New buildings for commercial use

South County should be separate from Campbell County

Need a communication tower for public use

Charter school or school of choice or become our own school district

Mini storage

Business park

Local dentist

Get un-landlocked so town can expand

Expanded library

Elderly/low income housing

High school track

Need four lane on Highway 59

Need regular branch bank

Public shuttle bus to Gillette

18 hole golf course

Local mechanic

Vocational trade school
Jobs for teens and non-mine workers
Solar/wind power plant for cheaper off grid power
New library
Arts & youth activities
Housing for elderly
High school track
Youth center
Post office upgrade
Four lane highway
Regular bank
Retain growth after boom
Affordable housing
Mini-storage units
Build our own power plant
Auditorium
Library in next two years
More sports programs for youth
Theatre - Blockbuster Video
Major development for workplace
Skate park - water slides
College courses offered
Discount center
Airport
Fast food
Larger grocery store
Develop retail area outside the mall
Upgrade the museum and make it an attraction
Eliminate/reduce vandalism
Maintain infrastructure that keeps up with growth
Jobs and activities for youth
Change the post office from a contract station to a level 13
New library building /expand library programming
Wright post to receive sub-station status/home delivery
Funding for arts and cultural activities, youth programs
Housing of all types
Town business district
New library
New bank building
Industrial park
School auditorium
Community/school auditorium

High school track
Hospital so we don't have to travel all the way to Gillette
Track
Auditorium
BMX/Motocross track
Motocross track
New track
Indoor arena
Plants & trees
Clothing stores
Fast food
New track
Gas station
Teen center
Auditorium
New track
See a little more people
New library so kids can see more books
More things to do
New track
Clothing store
More trees
Shopping mall
Track
New track
Dance club
Another gym
Fast food
New track
Big school for expansion of town
New track in the next two years
More restaurants
Gas stations
Sporting goods store
New power plant
New library
Newspaper
Library
Auditorium
Housing development
Senior citizen housing
Pharmacy

Housing developments
Law enforcement at night
Needs to be its own school district not affiliated with Gillette
Pharmacy
More businesses
More law enforcement coverage
Another housing development
Become a separate division of Campbell County so we would have our own school district and
Law enforcement!!!
Library buildings (not modular)
Motel
Car wash
Fast food
Restaurant
Quick lube
Pharmacy
Auditorium
Roller skating
Zoning restrictions
Mechanic
Low income housing
Keep the town from becoming trashy
Don't need motorcycles and four wheelers driving on the bike paths and open areas.
Library
Theater for plays; movie theater
Large community support for business
Good, upscale housing!
Senior housing
Library
Track at high school
Extended medical services
Support for more businesses
Diversification of economy
Maintenance of what we have: bike trails, roads, etc. More than seeing anything new added, I
would like to see town pride in what we have. Let's keep Wright looking beautiful.
Post Office
Library
Affordable housing for low income families
Expanded retail
Reduced speed at junction turn lane off Hwy. 387 to Sagebluff Drive
Library
Auditorium - "Little Theater"

Band shell
All weather track
Exposition center
R V Storage

APPENDIX